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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,693	10/31/2001	Mark S. Buehler	021556.0139	4673

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EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,693

Applicant(s)

BUEHLER ET AL.

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on April 6, 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

PD

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is a Final Rejection in response to Applicants' Amendment/Request for Reconsideration filed on April 6, 2005. Claims 1, 11 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-25 are presented for further examination. Applicants newly added claim 26 is presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims **1-8, 11-16 and 18-24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitmire et al (hereinafter, "Whitmire", U.S. Pat. No. 6,167,403) in view of Singh et al (hereinafter, "Singh", U.S. Pat. No. 5,758,083).

As per claims **1** and **18**, Whitmire discloses a method and program product for issuing custom traps for a network containing disparate network devices, the method comprising:

- storing the custom trap in a network manager, wherein the custom trap includes a triggering condition for a selected device among the network devices (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

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- monitoring the selected device to detect whether the triggering condition has been met (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50); and
- in response to detecting that the triggering condition has been met, automatically issuing the custom trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

However, Whitmire does not explicitly disclose:

- customizing a trap for use as a custom trap, said step of customizing including selecting device attributes and thresholds using a graphic user interface.

Singh discloses a method and system for sharing information between network managers comprising:

- customizing a trap for use as a custom trap, said step of customizing including selecting device attributes and thresholds using a graphic user interface (col. 6, lines 60-64, col. 11, lines 33-38, col. 14, lines 39-67 and col. 15, lines 47-67).

Given the teaching of Singh, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Whitmire by including a graphical user interface to allow users to specify and configure trap information (attribute, color, connection, etc.) regarding devices on a network in order to provide flexibility and improved efficiency in network operation and management by facilitating overall network management and enabling remote site managers to take corrective action to improve network performance.

As per claim 11, Whitmire discloses a system for issuing custom traps for a network containing disparate network devices, the system comprising:

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- a network manager in communication with the network devices (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);
- a trap list in the network manager (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);
- a custom trap in the trap list, wherein the custom trap includes a triggering condition for a selected device among the network devices (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and
- control logic in the network manager that monitors the selected device to detect whether the triggering condition has been met and automatically issues the custom trap in response to detecting that the triggering condition has been met (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

However, Whitmire does not explicitly disclose:

- said control is configured to generate the custom trap, said custom trap including device attributes and thresholds that are established via a graphical user interface.

Singh discloses a method and system for sharing information between network managers comprising:

- said control is configured to generate the custom trap, said custom trap including device attributes and thresholds that are established via a graphical user interface (col. 6, lines 60-64, col. 11, lines 33-38, col. 14, lines 39-67 and col. 15, lines 47-67).

Given the teaching of Singh, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Whitmire by including a graphical user interface to allow users to specify and configure trap information (attribute, color, connection, etc.) regarding

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devices on a network in order to provide flexibility and improved efficiency in network operation and management by facilitating overall network management and enabling remote site managers to take corrective action to improve network performance.

As per claims **2** and **19**, Whitmire discloses:

- wherein the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically issuing the custom trap from the network manager to an administrative workstation (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **3** and **20**, Whitmire discloses wherein:

- the operation of storing the custom trap comprises storing the custom trap in a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent in the network manager (abstract, col. 3, lines 41-49, col. 6, lines 36-60 and col. 22, lines 35-45); and
- the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically issuing the custom trap from the SNMP agent to an administrative workstation (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claim **4**, Whitmire discloses wherein:

- the selected device includes a device trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and
- the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically issuing the custom trap from the network manager to an administrative workstation in lieu of

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forwarding the device trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **5**, **13** and **21**, Whitmire further discloses:

- receiving user input defining the custom trap, wherein the user input specifies an attribute of the selected device and a value for the triggering condition (abstract, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **6**, **14** and **22**, Whitmire further discloses:

- receiving user input defining multiple custom traps, wherein the user input specifies different alert levels for at least two of the multiple custom traps (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **7**, **15** and **23**, Whitmire discloses:

- wherein the operation of storing a custom trap comprises storing a triggering condition that is based on attributes of two or more devices among the network devices (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **8** and **24**, Whitmire discloses wherein the selected device comprises:

- a first selected device and the custom trap comprises a first custom trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

the method further comprising:

- storing a second custom trap for a second device (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

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- using a first network protocol to monitor the first selected device (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50); and
- using a second network protocol to monitor the second selected device (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50).

As per claim 12, Whitmire discloses wherein the network contains:

- network contains an administrative workstation list (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and

wherein the network manager further comprises:

- a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent (abstract, col. 3, lines 41-49, col. 6, lines 36-60 and col. 22, lines 35-45);
- the network manager stores the custom trap in the SNMP agent (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and
- the SNMP agent automatically issues the custom trap to the administrative workstation (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claim 16, Whitmire discloses wherein:

- the selected device comprises a first selected device (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);
- the custom trap comprises a first custom trap (abstract, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

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- the trap list includes a second custom trap for a second device (abstract, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and

the network manager further comprises:

- a first management bean that uses a first network protocol to monitor the first selected device (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50); and
- a second management bean that uses a second network protocol to monitor the second selected device (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50).

3. Claims **9-10, 17** and **25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitmire in view of Singh and in further view of Compliment et al (hereinafter, "Compliment", 6,360,260).

As per claims **9, 17** and **25**, Whitmire in view of Singh discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Whitmire in view of Singh does not explicitly disclose:

- accepting registrations from multiple network management stations; and
- consulting the registrations to identify a recipient for the custom trap.

Compliment discloses an apparatus and method which allows an SNMP managed device to register with a Network Management system including:

- accepting registrations from multiple network management stations (abstract, col. 2, lines 54-67, col. 3, lines 1-25, lines 56-60, col. 5, lines 24-47, col. 8, lines 30-56, col. 9, lines 49-67 and col. 10, lines 1-15); and

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- consulting the registrations to identify a recipient for the custom trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 54-67, col. 3, lines 1-25, lines 56-60, col. 5, lines 24-47, col. 8, lines 30-56, col. 9, lines 49-67 and col. 10, lines 1-15).

Given the teaching of Compliment, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Compliment's teachings of an apparatus and method which allow an SNMP managed device to register with a network management system with the teachings of Whitmire in view of Singh, for the purpose of enabling a managed device to send a special auto discovery frames to a network management station until the device is discovered allowing the device to monitor communications between itself and the management station and restarts the registration process if communication is lost or impaired [see Compliment, col. 3, lines 54-67]. Thus Whitmire provides the motivation to combine to by utilizing a network management system as well as improving a network management by enabling a system manager to select trap definitions and issuing traps according to parameter being monitored by the system manager [see Whitmire, col.2, lines 56-66 and col. 26, lines 24-33].

As per claim 10, Whitmire in view of Singh discloses wherein:

- the multiple network management stations comprise first and second network management stations (col. 6, lines 36-50);
- the method further comprising:
- storing a first set of custom traps in a first trap list and storing a second set of custom traps in a second trap list (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and

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- associating the first network management station with the first trap list and associating the second network management station with the second trap list, such that the custom traps in the first set are issued to the first network management station and the custom traps in the second set are issued to the second network management station (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

However, Whitmire in view of Singh does not explicitly disclose:

- accepting registrations from multiple network management stations

Compliment discloses an apparatus and method which allows an SNMP managed device to register with a Network Management system including:

- accepting registrations from multiple network management stations (abstract, col. 2, lines 54-67, col. 3, lines 1-25, lines 56-60, col. 5, lines 24-47, col. 8, lines 30-56, col. 9, lines 49-67 and col. 10, lines 1-15).

Given the teaching of Compliment, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Compliment's teachings of an apparatus and method which allow an SNMP managed device to register with a network management system with the teachings of Whitmire in view of Singh, for the purpose of enabling a managed device to send a special auto discovery frames to a network management station until the device is discovered allowing the device to monitor communications between itself and the management station and restarts the registration process if communication is lost or impaired [see Compliment, col. 3, lines 54-67]. Thus Whitmire provides the motivation to combine to by utilizing a network management system as well as improving a network

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management by enabling a system manager to select trap definitions and issuing traps according to parameter being monitored by the system manager [see Whitmire, col.2, lines 56-66 and col. 26, lines 24-33].

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims **1-26** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
June 15, 2005


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